AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Upon entry of this Amendment, the complete listing of claims is as follows:

1-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A security system for a portable computing~~n electronic~~ device having an operating system and a memory available for use by the~~an~~ operating system of the electronic device, the memory being accessible by the operating system via a memory management unit of the portable computing device, the security system comprising:

means arranged to interact with the memory management unit of the portable computing ~~electronic~~ device to acquire at least a portion of the memory and remove the memory from being available for use by the operating system;

an access system arranged to control access to the acquired memory independently of the operating system of the ~~electronic~~ portable computing device; and

a filter driver configured to intercept read/write operations to the memory of the portable computing~~electronic~~ device and interact with the acquired portion of the memory based on the intercepted read/write operations independently of the operating system.

24. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the means arranged to interact with the portable ~~electronic~~ device is arranged to interact directly with the operating system.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in any claim 23~~5~~, wherein the memory management ~~system~~ unit is manipulated to remove references to the acquired memory.

27. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 23~~5~~, wherein the access system is arranged to control access to at least selected registers of the memory management unit.

28. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the acquired memory is hidden from the operating system.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the ~~electronic~~ portable computing device comprises a selected one of a personal digital assistant (PDAs), a mobile telephone and a laptop.

31. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the access system is arranged to protect at least selected registry settings associated with the acquired memory such that they cannot be modified by other applications.

32. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the access system is arranged to maintain a copy of correct values for the selected registry settings, monitor the registry settings and reset registry settings where incorrect values are detected.

33. (Previously Presented) A system, as claimed in claim 23, wherein the memory acquired, is used to store the encryption/decryption key or keys of the encryption system.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting at least a portion of a memory of a portable computing~~n electronic~~ device available for use by an operating system of the ~~electronic~~ portable computing device, the memory being accessible by the operating system via a memory management unit of the portable computing device, the method comprising the steps of:

interacting with the memory management unit of the portable ~~electronic~~ device to acquire at least a portion of the memory and remove the memory from being available for use by the operating system;

controlling access to the acquired memory independently of an operating system of the electronic device;

intercepting read/write operations to the memory of the electronic device by a filter driver; and

processing the intercepted read/write operations independently of the operating system.

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35. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the step of interacting includes interacting directly with the operating system.

36. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the step of interacting includes interacting directly with a memory management unit of the device.

37. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in any claim 36, further comprising the step of manipulating the memory management unit to remove references to the acquired memory.

38. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 36, further comprising the step of controlling access to at least selected registers of the memory management unit.

39. (Currently amended) a method as claimed in claim 34, further comprising the step of hiding the ~~thee~~-acquired memory from the operating system.

40. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 34, further comprising the steps of protecting at least selected registry settings associated with the acquired memory such that they cannot be modified by other applications.

41. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 40, further comprising the steps of maintaining a copy of correct values for the selected registry settings, monitoring the registry settings and resetting registry settings where incorrect values are detected.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (New) A portable computing device including a processor, a memory, an operating system, a memory management unit, a security system an access system and a filter driver, the memory being accessible by the operating system via the memory management unit of the portable computing device:

 the security system being arranged to interact with the memory management unit to acquire at least a portion of the memory of the portable computing device and remove the memory from being available for use by the operating system;

the access system being arranged to control access to the acquired memory independently of the operating system of the portable computing device; and

the filter driver being configured to intercept read/write operations to the memory of the portable computing device and interact with the acquired portion of the memory based on the intercepted read/write operations independently of the operating system.